

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 15th MAY 2023

Present: Councillors S William (Chair) E Mason, T Smith, J Bradley

Apologies for Absence- Councillors P Mason, C Ryan

2023/05/15/01

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR PERSON

RESOLVED that Councillor Scott Williams be appointed Chairperson for the ensuing year.

2023/05/15/02

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR PERSON

RESOLVED that Councillor John Bradley be appointed Vice Chairperson for the ensuing year.

2023/05/15/03

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no representatives of the public present.

2023/05/15/04

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 17th April 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

2023/05/15/05

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

The Clerk presented a report from the Police covering the period from 1 April to 30 April 2023. The crime figures were noted as including:

Criminal damage- 2 incidents
 Criminal damage to a vehicle- 3 incidents
 Anti-social behaviour, nuisance- 0 incident
 Anti-social behaviour- personal- 0 incidents
 Anti-social behaviour- environmental- 3 incidents
 Burglary- 0 incident

The throwing of eggs was noted as still ongoing and quad bikes were noted as having caused damage to some grassed areas. Individuals in the community were reminded to report incidents to the Police and provide intelligence where they could. A further walk about with County Councillor Higgins was noted as having taken place on 26 April.

The next PACT meeting was noted as being on 31 May in the Community Centre at 6pm.

Following further general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

2023/05/15/06

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Parish Council Vacancies

The Clerk reported three potential expressions of interest for the vacancy following the resignation of Michael Wilson. The deadline for expressions of interest was noted as being 18 May.

The Clerk advised there were a further two vacancies. Susan Kelly had resigned to take up her position of Community Development Officer which she had now started and Paul Daly had also resigned due to work commitments.

The Clerk advised that the vacancies would need to be formally advertised as directed by Durham County Council's electoral services team.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and further progress be awaited.

(2) Public Footpaths/Bridleways

The Clerk reported that following discussions at the previous meeting and subsequent concerns raised by a resident relating to the condition of a public footpath at Gulley Road and a bridleway leading from the woodman's cottage allotment site, a site meeting had been held with County Councillor Higgins and a Public Rights of Way Officer from Durham County Council.

The meeting had highlighted the Gulley Road site was owned by Durham County Council and the Public Rights of Way Officer advised she would need to liaise with drainage colleagues as to how the problems may be dealt with.

The bridleway was noted as being the responsibility of Durham County Council and boggy areas were as a result of works ongoing on adjacent private land. The Public Rights of Way Officer advised she would take this up with the land owner.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and further progress be awaited

(3) Former Pit Heaps- Band Stand

RESOLVED the Clerk liaise with Durham County Council regarding the removal of the derelict band stand on the former pit heaps area.

(4) CIC/Park Meeting

RESOLVED it be noted that the next meeting was to take place on Thursday 18 May at 5:45pm in the Family Centre.

2023/05/15/07

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Susan Kelly, the Parish Council's Community Development Officer. Ms Kelly thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity and gave an update of her activities since taking up her post. Ms Kelly outlined she had contacted Durham County Council regarding the need for a road sign directing people to the park. She had also updated Google records which listed the bowls pavilion as being closed.

Ms Kelly suggested having another Facebook page for the purposes of promoting the park. The toilet block was identified as needing to be open all such facilities were noted as being limited.

A meeting with Skill Mill had been held that day and the potential need for

water safety signs and a pond safety ring had been identified among other things.

Following general discussion it was noted M Kelly would attend meetings on a regular basis before it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the information given be noted;
- (b) authorisation be granted for a park related Facebook page to be launched;
- (c) investigations be made into pond safety signage and a safety ring; and
- (d) further progress be awaited.

2023/05/15/08

ANNUAL SUMMER PLAYScheme

General discussion followed regarding the potential for an annual play scheme and for it to be extended over a much longer period with more activities taking place at the park. It was considered that discussions were needed with the Community Association who had traditionally provided two weeks of activities on behalf of the Parish Council.

Following ongoing general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The Parish Council hold a summer play scheme extending beyond the usual two week period;
- (b) The Community Development be asked to prepare a plan of activities and liaise with the Community Association regarding its support; and
- (c) An annual away day be held as part of the summer activities.

2023/05/15/09

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED there be no objections to the following application:

Variance of premises licence- All In Lounge, 49 Front Street West

2023/05/15/10

CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed Boundary Changes

It was noted that consultation was underway regarding proposed boundary changes to the electoral wards in County Durham the impact of which would mean the County Councillor ward for Wingate would include Station Town and Trimdon.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the proposed boundary changes impacting on Wingate be supported.

2023/05/15/11

FEES FOR 2023/24

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that football, bowling and allotment fees for 2023/24 be set as at current levels.

2023/05/15/12

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

TSL- Fertilize Etc	
Cheque No. 406176	£314.80
BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No. 406177	£81.92
MKM- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406178	£72.34
Advantage Utility Services- Leak at Park	
Cheque No. 406179	£720.00
Clerk- Refund for Bingo Books	
Cheque No.406180	£21.97
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No.406181	£6.67
TSL- Fertilizer Etc	
Cheque No.406182	£225.60
TSL- Machine Hire	
Cheque No.406183	£720.00
Scotts Memorials- Covid Plaque	
Cheque No.406184	£1200.00
Steadfast Security- CCTV Monitoring	
Cheque No.406185	£2224.80
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No.406186	£6.83
EON Next- Bowls Pavilion	
Cheque No. 406187	£299.57

TSL- Fertilizer Etc	
Cheque No. 406188	£183.60
Durham CC- Web Site Hosting	
Cheque No. 406189	£808.49
Clerk- Refund for Bowls Refreshments	
Cheque No. 406190	£5.08
Clerk- May Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406191	£50.00
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406192	£11.97
Community Development Officer- Refund for Keys Cut	
Cheque No. 406193	£17.00

2023/05/15/13

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) **Site Meetings**

RESOLVED the Clerk arrange site meetings to discuss the prevention of quad/motor bikes in the park and allotments.

(2) **Memorial Plaque- John Cairns**

The Chairman stated that a memorial plaque for the late John Cairns had been suggested by a previous Chairperson although a location had never been agreed.

RESOLVED the potential for a plaque to be installed be considered at a future meeting.

(3) **Football Changing Rooms**

RESOLVED the Clerk investigate the poor condition state of the football changing rooms following the last game of the season.

(c) **County Councillor**

In the absence of County Councillor Higgins there was no County Council report.

2023/05/15/14

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE